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Your Reference: XA1807
Application No: GB 0320285.0

24 February 2004

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and four copies of the citations.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after 25 January 2005. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** - after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 25 January 2005 please mark your letter prominently:

"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

[†]Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Application No: GB 0320285.0

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Yours faithfully

Chris Ross
Examiner



Application No: GB 0320285.0
Claims searched: 1-18

Examiner: Chris Ross
Date of search: 23 February 2004

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance	
X ✓	1 at least	US 6288842 B1	(3MIP) Fig 2, col 4 l 47
" ✓	"	US 2866971 A	(KELLEHER) Figs 2, 3, col 1 l 15 on, col 4 l 31 on
A ✓		US 4789219 A	(LAYNE) the Figs

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^W:

G2J

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

G02B

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO, TXTE